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giving in tabular form, so that it may be seen at a glance, some of the principal peculiarities of these 60 organisms, i. e., size, flagella, whether staining by Gram's method, aerobic or anaerobic, liquefaction of gelatin, growth in bouillon, growth in milk, spore formation, pigment on agar, formation of  $H_2S$ , indol reaction, amount of acid produced from grape sugar, gas production, growth in  $CO_2$  and finally amount of growth in various media titrated as follows: (1) Neutral to phenolphthalein; (2) No. 1+10 cc. per litre of  $\frac{N}{1}$  Na OH; (3) No. 1+10 cc. per litre of  $\frac{N}{1}$   $H_2$   $SO_4$ ; (4) No. 1+20 cc. per litre of  $\frac{N}{1}$   $H_2$   $SO_4$ .

Authors have used phenolphthalein for titrating media regularly since 1894 and recommend it for general use. "Jedenfalls kann der mittelst Phenolphthalein neutral hergestellte Nährboden unbedingt als Universalnährboden empfohlen werden." All the bacteria figured in the Atlas were grown on media slightly alkaline to phenolphthalein, and most of the 60 sorts bore the extra 10 cc. of alkali and the 10 and 20 cc. of acid. This seems rather surprising to the writer and certainly cannot be assumed to hold good for all species. My experience would lead me to select for a universal medium a grade of alkalinity considerably less than the zero or neutral point of phenolphthalein, i. e., one nearer the zero of the best neutral litmus paper, as I am satisfied that some species will not grow on media as alkaline as here recommended. In conclusion this book may also be commended to the physician and general reader who wishes to know something about bacteria without becoming swamped in details. Its remarkably low price (15 marks) puts it within the reach of everybody.—ERWIN F. SMITH.

**Science Sketches.**<sup>2</sup>—This small book of twelve reprints needs little comment. Those who read the sketches in *Popular Science Monthly* and elsewhere will doubtless desire to have them collected into one volume. It may be noted that the papers "Agassiz at Penekese," "The Fate of Iciodorum," "The Story of a Strange Land" and "How the Trout came to California" have taken the place of certain others in the first edition.—F. C. K.

### **Recent Papers Relating to Vertebrate Paleontology.**<sup>3</sup>—

The first paper below cited is a review by Dr. Baur, of Chicago, of a

<sup>2</sup> David Star Jordan, 2d Ed. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, \$1.50.

<sup>3</sup> Bemerkungen über die Phylogenie der Schildkröten, von G. Baur, *Anatom. Anzeiger*, XII, 24-25, 1896, p. 561. Jena.

On the Morphology of the Skull of the Pelycosauria and the Origin of the Mammals, by G. Baur and E. C. Case; *Anatomischer Anzeiger*, XIII, u. 4 & 5, 1897, p. 109. Jena.